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**NEWS**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Unity Nursing Staff Members Achieve National Certification  
Hospice and Palliative Care Expertise Ensures Quality Care**

**Green Bay, Wis. – April 18, 2011** – Unity, leaders in hospice and palliative care, today announced eight additional members of its nursing staff achieved national certification, and five members received recertification, in hospice and palliative care from the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses.

Certification in hospice and palliative care indicates expertise in end-of-life care and for Unity ensures quality and consistency of care for its patients. Promoting professional development is a core value at Unity. Nursing staff become eligible to sit for the certification exam after completing 2,000 hours or having an equivalent of two years experience in the fields of hospice and palliative care. Staff members are certified for a period of four years and obtain recertification through the testing process.

Unity recognizes the growing demand within the communities it serves for quality, end-of-life care services provided by skilled professionals and takes pride in these members of its nursing staff and the large body of certified staff they join.

- Unity registered nurses Melissa Chmela, Sheryl Delfosse, Kara Delveaux, Anne LeMere, Cindy Meyer, Michelle Sponholtz, Linda VanLieshout and Patti Wagner achieved recognition as Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurses (CHPN®). Delveaux, LeMere, Sponholtz and VanLieshout earned recertification through the testing process.
  - Chmela (Marinette), based out of Unity's Marinette office, provides care to hospice and palliative patients in western Marinette and eastern Forest counties.
  - Delfosse and Delveaux (both of Green Bay) are Assistant Directors of Patient Services,

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LEADERS IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE

A caring not-for-profit partnership of Bellin Health, St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals

overseeing patient care staff in eastern Brown and northern Manitowoc counties, as well as at Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Residence.

- LeMere (Green Bay) is the Director of Compliance, overseeing operations and staff to ensure compliance with internal policies and procedures, as well as those mandated by local, state and federal authorities.
- Meyer (Sturgeon Bay) provides patient care in private homes and assisted living facilities in northern Door County and is based out of Unity's Sturgeon Bay office.
- Sponholtz (Green Bay) cares for patients residing in northeastern Brown County.
- VanLieshout (Green Bay) attends to the needs of patients in Ashwaubenon and West De Pere.
- Wagner (Peshtigo) travels throughout northern Oconto and southern Marinette counties to care for patients. She is based out of Unity's Marinette office.
- Patti Gabrielson (Oconto), licensed practical nurse, achieved recertification as a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN®). Based out of Unity's Marinette office, Gabrielson helps registered nurses manage their patients' needs during call hours.
- Nancy Bowers, Roger Ouellette, Cheryl Schilling and Kristin Winnekens, certified nursing assistants, achieved recognition as Certified Hospice and Palliative Nursing Assistants (CHPNA™).
  - Bowers (Green Bay) provides personal cares and assistance for patients, and their families, residing in private homes and assisted living facilities on the west side of Green Bay.
  - Ouellette (Marinette) and Schilling (De Pere) provide personal cares and assistance to patients at Unity's Jack and Engrid Meng Residence.
  - Winnekens (Denmark) provides care to patients residing in northern Manitowoc County.

### **About Unity**

Unity is a not-for-profit provider of community-based hospice and palliative care, residential hospice care and grief support in 12 counties in Northeast Wisconsin. Unity is a member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Hospice Organization and Palliative Experts (HOPE) of Wisconsin. Unity is a partnership of Green Bay's three not-for-profit



hospitals – Bellin Health, St. Mary’s Hospital Medical Center and St. Vincent Hospital.

Unity is based in the Green Bay area with offices in Marinette, Shawano and Sturgeon Bay.

For more information call (920) 338-1111 or visit [www.unityhospice.org](http://www.unityhospice.org).

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